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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 17, 1914

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the City Club, New York, on May 11, 1914. The President's appointment of Professor L. C. Marshall as a member of the sub-committee which is to report upon the accrediting by universities of work done by graduate students in connection with bureaus of municipal research, public commissions, etc., in place of Professor H. R. Seager, resigned, was approved. (The other members of the sub-committee are Professors J. R. Commons and E. D. Durand, the latter being chairman.)

The Secretary reported that in accordance with action taken at the Minneapolis meeting a letter drafted by Professor E. D. Durand and signed by the President and Secretary had been sent to the President of the United States urging the necessity of a proper representation of the United States at government expense at important international congresses and other international meetings of delegates relating to economic, sociological, political, and statistical subjects. A reply was received from the Counselor of the Department of State, to which the matter had been referred by the President, suggesting that the Association should take the initiative in securing the necessary legislation from Congress.

The Secretary, at his request, was empowered to enlarge the scope of the Handbook of the Association.

The most important action taken by the Committee at this meeting was a decision that the annual meeting of the Association for 1915 be held in San Francisco. The first week in September was selected as the date of the meeting. It was supposed at the time that this date was preferred by our members on the Pacific Coast. But changes in the general schedule for the various scientific gatherings to be held in San Francisco in connection with the Exposition, together with some other new factors, have led some of our members on the Coast to ask that the meeting be held somewhat earlier in the summer. This matter has been the subject of much correspondence with the members of the Executive Committee, but as only the one meeting of the Committee was held during the year a final decision has had to be postponed to the present meeting.

The changes in our list of members and subscribers during the year ending December 17, 1914, have been as follows:

Members resigned	216
Removed for lack of address.....	15
Dropped for non-payment of dues.....	79
Subscriptions discontinued	12
Deaths	17
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Total subtractions	338
New members added.....	238
New subscribers added	56
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Total additions	294
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Net Loss	44

We now have 2469 members and subscribers. Of these 2060 are members paying annually; 81 are life members; 8 are honorary members; and 320 are subscribers.

The net loss of 44 members and subscribers must in part be taken as a continuance of the effects of the increase in our annual dues from three dollars to five, which showed itself in a net loss of 202 members and subscribers during the preceding year,—the first year to which the increased dues applied. The diminished rate of loss is, of course, a matter for some satisfaction, and indicates that it should be possible to hold our membership at about its present figure. If this can be done, it will provide adequately for our activities on their present scale. But we cannot count on increasing either the scale or the scope of our activities without an increase in our membership. This cannot be done with any expectation of lasting results without the continued coöperation of our members. The following table bears upon this point:

Membership at beginning of year		Resigned or dropped	Added	Per cent loss	Per cent gain
1910	1360	52	401	4.5	29.5
1911	1702	112	814	6.6	47.8
1912	2404	229	540	9.5	32.5
1913	2715	473	271	17.4	10.0
1914	2513	337	294	13.4	11.7

During 1910, 1911, and 1912 our membership was doubled, largely through the efficient work of the officers, assisted in some measure by a special membership committee. In 1911, the first year of the *AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW*, a particularly large advance was made. But there was also an increasing number of withdrawals. And although these withdrawals reached a maximum in 1913, not all of them can be attributed to the advance in dues which took effect in that year. Withdrawals have been most numerous when our membership has been largest, and, moreover, withdrawals have annually taken away a larger or smaller *proportion* of our membership according as that membership has been relatively large or small.

It is clear that some considerable proportion of the new members added in the past five years have found that they were not sufficiently interested in the work or in the publications of the Association to continue to pay our annual dues. It is to be hoped that our rolls are now fairly well pruned in this respect. May not the loss be made up by the enrollment of new members who will be definitely interested in the furtherance of that unprejudiced and scientific study of economic problems for which we stand? For this permanent sort of increase in our membership we must depend largely upon the coöperation of those now on our rolls.

The Proceedings of the Annual Meeting and the Handbook of the Association were, as usual, put through the press from the Secretary's office. The Handbook for 1914 contains one new feature—a geographical index of members and subscribers—which, it is hoped, will prove useful.

During the year the deaths of seventeen members have been reported to the Secretary, namely:

O. H. BERRY	JASPER M. LAWFORD
EUGEN VON BOEHM-BAWERK	M. L. MUEHLEMAN
R. M. BRECKENRIDGE	JOHN P. SCRIPPS
H. P. DAVIDSON	WAGER SWAYNE
EDWIN GINN	CLAUDE THOMPSON
WILLIAM H. HILL	GEORGE WESTINGHOUSE
BERTHOLD HUBER	JOHN F. WINSLOW
C. H. HUTTIG	STUART WOOD
DWIGHT A. JONES	

Respectfully submitted,

ALLYN A. YOUNG,
Secretary.